

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 19-21 are now pending in this application, with Claim 19 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-18 and 22-27 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 19-21 are allowed. These claims have not been amended and, therefore, remain in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-18 and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since Claims 1-18 and 22-27 have been cancelled, these rejections are deemed moot. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is

respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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